

REMARKS:

The Office Action dated January 25, 2008, has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1 and 11 are amended as to matters of form only. No new matter is added or amendments made that require further consideration or search. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-11 and 16-18 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 1 is amended to clarify that there is an internal cover piece and an external cover piece. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 16 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Toren in view of Reid. Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 16 recite subject matter not disclosed, taught or suggested by the combination of Toren and Reid.

Claim 1, upon which claims 3-7, and 10-11 and 16 depend, defines a pack assembly that includes two packs of medicinal tablets joined together, each pack being provided with an external cover piece. The two packs are joined such that the assembly has a stowed configuration in which the medicinal tablets cannot be expelled and an opened configuration in which the medicinal tablets can be expelled. The external cover pieces are in a face-to-face relation when the assembly is in its stowed configuration. Each pack includes a base wall which defines a plurality of locations for

the tablets, wherein at each location there is a displaceable pocket which is substantially dome-shaped and integral with the base wall and which constitutes a recess for a tablet, an internal cover piece of a rupturable material, and a tablet between the displaceable pocket and the cover piece. The base wall is of a sufficiently rigid construction as to be resistant to permanent deformation and is elastic such that it can be reversibly flexed. A junction between the pocket and the base wall acts as a hinge such that the pockets are bistable and have a concave position in which the pocket accommodates a tablet and a convex position in which the tablet is forced from the pocket. Each pack is formed by injection moulding.

According to the claimed configuration, the base of the pack of the present application is constructed of a material which is sufficiently rigid so as to resist permanent deformation, but can be reversibly flexed. The advantage of use of such material is that the pack assembly can be re-used. See page 6, lines 6-8 of the present specification.

In contrast, the combination of Toren and Reid does not disclose such a pack. In this regard, Reid states that once the blister 18 has been pushed in, it assumes a relatively rigid position in the 'inside-out' configuration having been bent along the break line 21. (Column 3, lines 26-29.) In addition, the shoulder 23 also bends inwardly. This is shown in Fig. 4 of Reid. It is submitted that one skilled in the art would readily understand that when blister 18 is 'popped,' it would not be capable of being returned to its original position. Thus, the pack formed from a combination of Toren and Reid would not be reusable.

Thus, the combination of art fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection to those claims be withdrawn.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request that claims 17-18 be rejoined and claims 1, 3-7, 10-11 and 16-18 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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